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## **Summary Report**

# **PROBABLE SLBM TEST PLATFORM SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 402, USSR (TSR)**

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**PROBABLE SLBM TEST PLATFORM  
SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 402, USSR (TSR)**

(TSR) [ ] of Severodvinsk Shipyard 402 [ ] USSR, indicates that the G-I-class Soviet ballistic submarine (SSB) which was converted at the shipyard is a probable submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test platform. This submarine has been assigned the NPIC interim designator 402S. A personnel hoist, similar to those used to perform missile tube maintenance on nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), was positioned over the opening in the sail of the 402S (Figure 1). The outer diameter of the hoist is [ ] the inner diameter is [ ] and the hoist is [ ] high. The opening in the sail is [ ] meters in diameter and the door (opened to port) is [ ] long. On imagery of [ ] the hoist had been removed from the tube and the door had been closed.

(TSR) Imagery of [ ] revealed a rectangular scaffold in the approximate position of the forward missile tube on a G-I-class SSB (Figure 2). This scaffold was [ ] meters wide, [ ] long, and [ ] above the deck with a [ ] opening on top. The scaffold was added after the complete removal of the sail and the missile tubes of the G-I SSB. By [ ] the scaffold had been removed, revealing a cylindrical tube [ ] in diameter, at least [ ] above the deck level, and topped with an unidentified irregularly shaped covering (Figure 3). By [ ] modifications to the sail were nearly externally complete. The sail had been enclosed by scaffolding and the tube had been covered by a [ ] temporary cover. On imagery of [ ] (Figure 4), a probable missile tube door (hinged to port) was observed; the door was [ ] long and [ ] wide. The top of the sail was irregular in shape and appeared to be offset to starboard with the probable missile tube door approximately centered within the irregular shape. A probable door hinge mechanism extends outboard of the sail to port.

(TSR) From [ ] the 402S was being depermed off the calibration pier. The 402S departed the Severodvinsk Complex between [ ] for sea trials. On [ ] the submarine had returned to the fitting-out quay for post-sea-trial maintenance and/or adjustments.

(TSR) Unlike the conversions of the G-class submarine that were carried out at Vladivostok Naval Base and Shipyard 202 [ ], the complete sail of the 402S was removed and then reconstructed after the installation of the [ ] tube. Although the length of the tube is unknown, the similarities of the dimensions to those of the SLBM popup barge doors, of the probable personnel hoist, of the probable missile handling rings, and of other equipment at Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard [ ] suggest that this submarine is a probable test platform for the new SLBM under development which has a postulated diameter of [ ]. The relationship of the [ ] outer doors on the Delta-class SSBN to the [ ] diameter SS-N-8 and SS-N-18 missiles lends credence to the probability of a [ ] diameter missile being test fired from this vessel.

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(TSR) Additional information supporting the rationale for the 402S conversion for use as a probable SLBM test platform includes: 1) a history of test platform conversion at Severodvinsk; 2) the absence of other identifiable test platforms—it is believed that the SLBM under development will not be deployed until it has first been test fired from a seagoing platform; 3) the longer than usual time under conversion—approximately 38 months as opposed to approximately 12 months for conversion to the G-class submarine at Vladivostok; 4) the arrival of the G-I SSB at Severodvinsk for conversion between [ ] and [ ] the approximate time of the sighting of the large encased pressure hull sections believed to be for a large SSBN under construction in the new construction hall; and finally, 5) the involvement of Severodvinsk in priority construction and conversions instead of routine conversions.

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(TSR) While the dimensions of the new SLBM under development and the length of the tube in the 402S submarine are unknown, it is believed that the available imagery-derived evidence supports the assumption that the 402S will be used in at-sea testing of a new SLBM.

\*NPIC. [ ] SR-007/78, *Estimated Dimensions of New Soviet SLBM (TSR)*, Jan 78 (TOP SECRET

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ]

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